

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 FBO-02 SCS-03 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05

CCO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05

OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 IO-10 FEA-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 XMB-02 AGR-05

COME-00 EB-07 (ISO) W

----- 008813

O R 301657Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 434

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY N

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN COUP - SITREP 5

REF: LAGOS 7233

SUMMARY: IT IS EXPECTED THAT BRIGADIER MURTALA MOHAMMED WILL ATTEMPT
JUSTIFY CHANGE IN FMG LEADERSHIP DURING HIS NATION-WIDE ADDRESS

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THIS EVENING. AN ABRUPT CHANGE IN FMG ATTITUDES TOWARD AMERICAN OIL

COMPANIES OR IN U. S. - NIGERIAN RELATIONS WOULD
BE SURPRISE. COUNTRY REAMINS CALM.
END SUMMARY.

1. MOHAMMED WILL UNDOUBTEDLY USE NATIONWIDE RADIO-TV
BROADCAST THIS EVENING TO JUSTIFY CHANGE IN FMG LEADERSHIP.
THERE MAY WELL BE REFERENCE TO STAMPING OUT CORRUPTION, BUT
HOW HARD NEW LEADERS CAN COME DOWN ON THIS ISSUE IS
PROBLEMATIC. MORE PROBABLY MOHAMMED WILL STRIKE OUT
AGAINST INEFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT AND FAILURE OF FORMER
LEADERSHIP SOLVE PROBLEMS OF INFLATION, SHORTAGES, TRAFFIC
SNARLS, PORT CONGESTION, AND MISPLACED PRIORITIES. AS
EXAMPLE LATTER, FESTAC IS NOT RPT NOT POPULAR AMONG GENERAL
POPULACE WHO BLAME PRIORITIES GIVEN FESTAC CONNECTED PROJECTS
BY GOWON-GOVERNMENT FOR SHORTAGES OF CEMENT, ETC. AND
AS HAVING CONTRIBUTED TO COST OF LIVING INCREASES.

2. ON THEIR PAST RECORDS, NEW LEADERS APPEAR TO BE DOERS
WHO WILL EMBARK ON AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS ATTACK THESE PROBLEMS.
RESULTANT FRUSTRATION WHEN SCHEDULED GOALS NOT ACHIEVED MAY
PRODUCE SOME HEAD-KNOCKING BY NEW FMG IN ORDER TO GET
BUREAUCRACY CRACKING.

3. IN GENERAL, GROUP APPEARS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD
WEST. THERE NO INDICATION OF ANY BASIC SHIFT IN FMG OIL
POLICIES OR ATTITUDES TOWARD OIL COMPANIES. OIL REVENUE
ESSENTIAL SOURCE OF WEALTH NEEDED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND NEW
GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO PURSUE SUBSTANTIALLY SAME POLICIES,
WHICH INTENDED TO MAXIMIZE GOVERNMENT REVENUE BUT ALSO TO
MAINTAIN COMPANIES' ROLE IN CRUDE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING. NOR
WOULD WE EXPECT ANY ABRUPT CHANGE IN GENERAL US-NIGERIAN RELA-
TIONS AS RESULT OF COUP. THERE MAY BE SOME INCREASED FRICTION
OVER SOUTHER AFRICAN ISSUES AND WE ARE STILL FACED WITH THE
IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF EMBASSY ANNEX BUILDING. HOWEVER, IF NEW
LEADERSHIP IS GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON SOLVING COUNTRY'S MAJOR
PROBLEMS, AID PROVISION OF TECHNICIANS TO STUDY WAYS TO
DECONGEST LAGOS' PORT WILL BE RIGHT ON MARK IN EYES OF FMG.

4. FOR MOMENT LAGOS AND COUNTRY ARE CALM. PUBLIC REACTION
IS NOT HOSTILE, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMONSTRATIONS IN
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FAVOR OF THE COUP EITHER. GOWON WAS A POPULAR INDIVIDUAL,
BUT INFLATION, CHRONIC SHORTAGES OF MANY ITEMS, INCLUDING
PETROL IN THIS OIL RICH COUNTRY, CAUSED MANY TO QUESTION HIS
EFFECTIVENESS IN DEALING WITH COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS.
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